



Greater North Texas Orchid Society

<http://www.gntos.org>

Volume 52—Issue 10

October 2006

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OCTOBER—Bill Mathis speaks about *The Best Kept Secret in the Gardening World: Hardy Terrestrial Orchids*"

The meeting will be on October ⁶/₅th, 2006.

The October speaker will be Bill Mathis. The URL for his company's website is: www.WildOrchidCompany.com

His title will be "The Best Kept Secret in the Gardening World: Hardy Terrestrial Orchids" and he will have plants for sale.

"This presentation is designed to give the average gardener or orchid enthusiast a general overview of the cultural requirements for successfully growing hardy terrestrial orchids. Several different species are discussed in detail. The discussion is divided into three categories, upland, wetland and transition species, and includes soil amendments, soil mixes, fertilizer use, watering requirements, etc. for the specific groups."

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Greater North Texas Orchid Society

The GNTOS was formed in 1954 as a result of the amalgamation of the Dallas Orchid Society and the North Texas Orchid Society. The new organization was formed as a nucleus for a larger and potentially greater Society with an enthusiastic membership. On March 19, 1954, they were issued a charter by the AOS as the Greater North Texas Orchid Society

Meeting Information

Meetings are held on the first Friday of each month at the Texas A&M Extension Campus Education Building, 17360 Coit Road, Dallas, TX. The doors open at 6:30 pm for set up followed by mingling and meeting / program.

Newsletter

Members are encouraged to submit articles, information, or suggestions for publication in our Newsletter. Send submissions to the editor via email at: manuel.aybar@verizon.net or by mail to Manuel Aybar, 2330 Saharah dr, Garland, TX 75044

President's Message by Linda Horton

Now is the time for all good men (and women) to come to the aid of their society. Sound familiar? Our nominating committee will be meeting in the next few weeks to put together a slate of officers for next year. This can be a very difficult job and I commend Tom, Glenda, Bill, Jean and Kathy for being willing to take on the challenge. Consider what you can do for your society. It takes all of us to make GNTOS a vibrant, useful and entertaining group.

On a different note, if the temperature remains cooler, David Hines will entertain us with his harp at the next meeting. If you enter the building and hear harp music, not to worry, you're not in heaven, its just David introducing some of the music he plans to play at the trustees show next year!! Are

we high class or what!!

Please add this new member to your directory:

Nicole Keith
6328 N. MacArthur Blvd. #4111
Irving, Tx., 75039
Email – nicole@jedocoder.net

As a reminder that we will be voting on the change in our bylaws to allow Kathy Halverson to hold the position of treasurer for a third term at our October meeting. This must be done at that time to allow the nominating committee to then complete a roster of candidates for next years officers.

Linda

DALLAS JUDGING CENTER By Nancy Cropp

Dallas Judging Center Sept. 9, 2006

- Three plants were entered for consideration, and one award was given:
- Phal. Summer Venus 'Orchid Konnection' (Summer Wine x venosa) CCM 84 points, owner: Orchid Konnection, Dallas, TX. 35 flowers and 7 buds on 5 branching inflorescences.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? By Glenda McIntosh

Tribe: Maxillarieae
 Subtribe: Bifrenariinae
 Genus: Bifrenaria

Bifrenaria inodora Ldl.

Pronunciation: bi-fren-AIR-ee-ah in-oh-DOE-rah

Synonyms: *Bifrenaria fragrans* Barb.-Rdr., *Bif. fuerstenbergiana* Schltr.,

Lycaste inodora hort.

Derivation of Name: The genus name is taken from the Latin words *bi* meaning two or double and *frenum* meaning rein, strap, bridle, or brake. This refers to the two strap-like stipites that attach the 4 pollinia to the viscidium. The species name is taken from the

Latin adjective *inodorus* meaning odorless. Odorless? Is it not interesting that one of the synonyms is called *fragrans*? Obviously, there must be a trigger to signal the release of the plant's natural fragrance.

Taxonomy: John Lindley first described this genus in 1833 in his *Genera and Species of Orchidaceous Plants*.

Bifrenaria is allied to *Pabstia* (*Colax*) and *Maxillaria*, but is distinguished from them by having the two stipites and the obscure viscidium. There are 24 species in the genus *Bifrenaria* distributed from Panama, Trinidad to northern South America and extending south to Peru and Brazil. These epiphytic plants grow in wet, tropical forests at elevations of 200-700 m. The plants are characterized by ovoid pseudobulbs with four angles, 1-2 apical leaves and usually large waxy, attractive flowers.

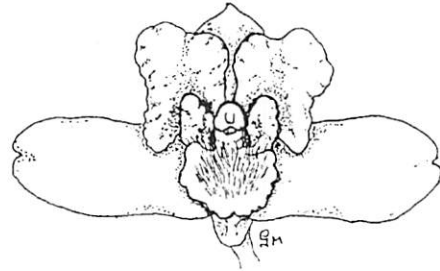
Description: **Pseudobulbs** clustered, ovoid, 4-angled in cross section, to 7.62 cm high. **Leaf** solitary, oblong-elliptic, acute, leathery, glossy, to 30 cm long x 13 cm broad. **Inflorescences** usually paired from the latest formed pseudobulb, 1-3 flowered. **Flowers** waxy, to 7.62 cm across, fragrant or odorless, apple green to yellow-green, oblong, obtuse, the lateral sepals with a mucro at the apex, petals much smaller than sepals, but more vividly colored, subrhomboidal. Lip 3-lobed, white, yellow, or pale rose, often suffused with darker color, the erect lateral lobes subtriangular, the midlobe broadly oval, hairy, reflexed, crisped and undulate marginally; disc a fleshy grooved plate that is toothed and projecting in front, spur subcylindric, half as long as pedicellate ovary. Column curved, concave below stigmatic surface, white or greenish-white.

Bif. inodora 'Hal's Gift' received a CHM/AOS (81 points) on May 8, 1999. The award described "the 3 flowers and one bud on the inflorescence as being apple green dusted with lavender; petals lighter green dusted with lavender centrally, slightly ruffled; sepals and petals fused at the base to form a tube; lip lavender centrally; column white, substance heavy; texture velvet; commended for aesthetic appeal and attractive color. Natural spread 6.8 cm wide, 3.0 cm vertical; dorsal sepal 2.4 cm wide, 4.0 cm long; petals 1.7 cm wide, 3.0 cm long; lateral sepals 2.0 cm wide, 5.4 cm long; lip 1.5 cm wide, 4.0 cm long." No mention is made of the hairy lip, which is a very attractive feature.

There can be a good deal of color variation within the species and some clones are more vividly colored than others. The description of *Bif. inodora* 'Magnifico's Jam' which received an HCC/AOS in May 1989 was described as lime green with faint rose flush and deep reddish purple lip. My drawing is taken from a picture in Botanica's *Orchids* that shows a deep lime green flower with bright yellow petal tips accentuating the solid ruby red lip and brilliant white column.

Bloom season: Late winter to summer.

Bifrenarias are lovely but seldom seen in collections. Perhaps, it is time to change this. Just remember that *Bifrenarias* need intermediate conditions that you can duplicate by placing the plant near a mist head or in front of the pad system in your greenhouse. They need lots of cool, fresh moving air to duplicate their natural habitat.



GNTOS Meeting Minutes

The September meeting was called to order at 7:50 PM by president, Linda Horton. The August minutes were approved as printed. Carol Ann Fagan introduced our visitors and new member, Nicole Keith. Old business: brochures of the Orchid cruise are on the back table for any interested party. New business: The Fort Worth Orchid Society has their show September 29-Oct. 1st in the arboretum. Emily Quinn has volunteered to put in the society display, a tabletop and will need help. The theme is "Cowtown Orchids". For more information contact Maryann Lanford 817-560-7859.

Robert Marsh introduced our program presented by Linda Horton, GNTOS and Kathy Baxley of the Fort Worth Orchid Society. An informative power point program of their greenhouses was presented followed by questions and answers on their specific growing conditions.

Following a break Nancy Cropp announced the ribbon winners on the plant table judged by Dianna Rose and David Hines as follows. Blue – Mtssa. Dark Star

'Darth Vader' – Jean Whiting

Red – Onc.(Papillo) Mendenhall 'Hildos' – Manny Aybar

White – Aerides Lawrenceiae – Mike Beber

Species of the month – *Catasetum laminatum* – Amy Drumwright

Tricolor – *Grammatophyllum scriptum* – Richard Poole

29 plants entered

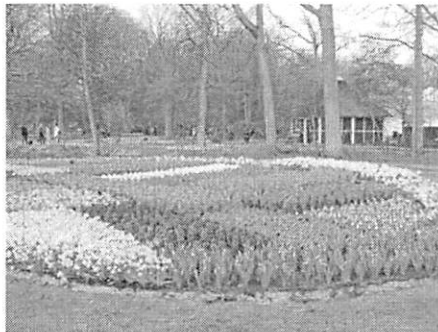
The meeting was concluded with the plant raffle. Additional plants contributed to the raffle by Stanley Greene, The Brandenburgs, Jean Whiting and Mary Heifner. Thank you very much.

Linda Horton announced the nominating committee for 2007 officers. Tom and Glenda McIntosh, Bill Williamson, Jean Whiting and chairperson, Kathy Halverson.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Horton in the absence of secretary Suzanne Williamson.

TRIP TO THE KEUKENHOFF, AMSTERDAM—By Manny

In April of this year, I had the wonderful opportunity to visit the Keukenhof gardens outside of Amsterdam in Netherlands. (www.keukenhof.nl) In summary, the experience was just unbelievable. Imagine 80 acres planted with bulbs (tulips, hyacinths, daffodils , etc) and to my surprise, they have a permanent orchid pavilion! The pictures below show more than what I could possibly describe... enjoy!



Top: View of the Keukenhoff; Right: Mom posing with some Cymbidium hybrids; Below: Mom posing with some Phals.



REFRESHMENTS

By Hilda

Thank you to everyone who contributed refreshments at the September Meeting. A special thank you to Jean Whiting who assumed my duties in my absence.

October

Appetizers:

Jan Bradham 817-925-7305

Dessert:

Ruth Wright

Punch:

Fran Hensley 972-517-8084

ERRATUM

On Page 5 of the July Issue of the GNTOS Newsletter, some information regarding the Costa Rica Tour was published. It was supposed to say "Benefiting the GNTOS" instead of "Sponsored by GNTOS". Also the correction was made and it read "A percentage of the proceedings of this tour will be donated to GNTOS" and this statement should have read "Benefiting the GNTOS".

The correct flyer / information is posted in this issue of the GNTOS Newsletter.

Manny, Newsletter Editor

Treasurer's Report by Kathy Halverson

Treasurer's Report: Aug. 2006		
Dated: 9-10-06		
Beginning Balance: \$4576.12		
	Income	Expenses
Dues	\$10.00	
Hospitality		
Raffle	\$85.00	
Rent		\$120.00
Snoopers	\$146.00	\$120.60
Speakers Fee/Honorarium		
Speakers Air Fare/Travel	\$	Carter and Holmes \$200.00
Miscellaneous:		
Donations	\$	
Special Sales:GNTOS Monogram	\$	\$
SWROGA Dues		
Auction		
Subtotals:	\$241.00	\$440.60
Ending Balance: \$4376.52		

Treasurer's Report: Sept. 2006		
Dated: 9-13-06		
Beginning Balance: \$4376.52		
	Income	Expenses
Dues	\$40.00	
Hospitality		
Raffle	\$117.00	
Rent		\$120.00
Snoopers	\$126.00	\$90.90
Speakers Fee/Honorarium		Kathy Baxley \$75.00
Speakers Air Fare/Travel	\$	
Miscellaneous:		
Donations	\$	
Special Sales:GNTOS Monogram shirts, caps	\$	\$
SWROGA Dues		
Auction		
Subtotals:	\$283.00	\$285.90
Ending Balance: \$4373.62		

Ask The Plant Groom™ by Dale Groom, The Plant Groom™

QA1082

I follow your column in the local newspaper and thought I'd send you a few questions. A published answer is not necessary but an email would be great! I live where the soil is very sandy. Here are my questions:

What kind of evergreen shrub would you recommend for a partial sun/full shade windbreak/privacy screen? I only have about 4 foot for maximum spread. Height is not an issue. I have a case of "disappearing" onions. I plant them, pull some to eat, and the rest of them disappear into the garden soil. It's not critters. Any ideas on what's happening to them? Do you think they are rotting into the soil? I've about given up on trying to grow them. Is fall the best time to add major soil amendments to my garden space? People tell me to add lime. I'm planning on adding home-made compost, manure, peat and bagged topsoil. Any other suggestions? Thanks for your help. - R. R.

Congratulations on your location because many Texas gardeners would love to have sandy soil.

Due to the narrow 4' dimension you have established I recommend vines for your screen. Some of the best include Carolina Jessamine, Coral Honeysuckle and Cross Vine. They are all Water Wise natives once established and easy care possibilities for Texas landscapes and gardens.

If you are leaving your onions in the ground after they are ready to harvest they may be breaking down and "disappearing". All onions are ready to harvest when their tops break or lean over. I do not recommend using the garden as a store room once onions are ready to be harvested. I do recommend planting onion transplants in January and harvesting when their tops break/fall over.

Only add lime, fertilizer or other additives to amend soil pH and/or nutrients if a soil test recommends the need. All Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas A & M University System county offices have soil test forms and sample containers in their offices. Their locations and phone numbers are in your local directory. This information is also on-line at <http://texasextension.tamu.edu>, click on the top left hand corner at Contact Your County Office and then click on your specific county. If you wish, send me your request for a Soil Text Kit and include a self addressed long envelope with two 1st class stamps on it to Dale Groom, Soil Test Kit, Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas A & M University System, 10056 Marsh Lane, Suite B-101, Dallas, TX 75229. When received I will send you two sample containers and combination instruction sheet and soil test form.

Fall is an excellent time to improve soil anywhere in Texas and a super time to install winter hardy landscape plants including trees, shrubs and vines. All Texas soils whether light sandy soils you have or heavy clay soils benefit from the addition of organic matter. Organic matter may be added in the form of composts, brown Canadian sphagnum peat, bark mulches and other plant by-products. Do be careful when adding animal manures, make sure they have been composted first before applying.

Top soil has no specific definition other than it is suppose to be off of the top of the soil, Sandy loam, clay loam, sandy clay loam and other soil types are specific. If you wish to add "soil" to your gardens do specify what type when you purchase. It should also be guaranteed to be nut grass free. This true "pest" of a weed in a big pain in garden plantings and may be transported into our locations from purchased soil sources.

We recently moved into a new home with St. Augustine grass. At our previous home (only a couple of miles away), the St. Augustine is thick and lush green. Not so at our new home.

This is a relatively newly sodded yard -- probably as early this year as was possible. In this area, top soil is pretty good, but the red clay is only a foot or so down. We have been warned not to water too much because of lack of drainage.

Our St. Augustine has lots of runners that are very apparent. The grass is a pretty good green, but it is not thick at all. It was fertilized once in early April. We water with a sprinkler system, three times a week for 15 - 20 minutes a time. Should we water heavier but less often? Or, are we watering much as it is?

Please tell us how to have that thick lawn like we had before. Thank you so much for your help! - G. R.

Most Texas lawns will survive with 1" of water per week. It is best to irrigate throughly, deeply and less frequently rather than lightly and frequently. The best time of day to apply water is in the morning prior to 10am.

It may take a couple of seasons to bring your relatively new lawn up to the level you have previously enjoyed. The single most important physical activity we can do to help encourage a thick lawn is mow frequently. When mowing do make sure your mower's blade is sharp. Mow frequently enough to only remove approximately 1/3 of the grass blades/leaves height each time you mow.

Most soils in Texas are low in (N) nitrogen. A soil test will determine if this is the case in your lawn's soil. Soils low in nitrogen can not supply the most important nutrient necessary for vegetive and foliar growth of grass.

Beautiful lawns are grown on heavy black, red and other colors of clay soils.

Dale's Super Hot Texas Tips:

* It's Texas and late summer, it's suppose to be hot! This year is a prime example of why we all would be wise to only utilize proven Water Wise plants in our landscapes and gardens.

* When reading articles in print, on-line or other forms be sure the recommended plants will take Texas sun when full sun locations are recommended. This will avoid some disappointments with your plantings.

* Remember, all plants utilized in Texas lawn, garden, landscape and other horticultural activities should be ... Texas tough.

Dale Groom, Extension Horticulturist-Dallas County, Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas A & M University System, Native Texan, Columnist, Author, Radio/TV Host is known statewide as The Plant Groom(tm). You may send your horticulture related questions to Dale at dalegroom@mycvc.net To speak directly with a Master Gardener M-F, 8:30am - 4pm dial 214-904-3053.

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TEXAS ORCHID
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Linda Horton
President
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Garland, TX 75044

GNTOS MEMBER
Your address and number
Your City, Your State

UPCOMING SHOWS
(See <http://www.gntos.org>)

We are on the Web!
www.gntos.org

September 29 - October 1st	Fort Worth Orchid Society Show
September 29 - October 1st	South Texas Orchid Society Show
October 6-8	Central Louisiana Orchid Society Show
October 20-22	Heart O' Texas Orchid Society Show Hosting SWROGA
November 4 - 5	Kansas Orchid Society Show
November 17- 19	Oklahoma Orchid Society Show
May 2 - 6, 2007	Fort Worth and Greater North Texas Orchid Societies Show and AOS Members Meeting